

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

IO-11 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 /072 W

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O P 051731Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8514

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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AMCONSUL LYON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT FR PFOR

SUBJECT: DECLARATION BY GENERAL HAIG: GOF REACTION

REF: PARIS 05601

1. ON MARCH 5, J. P. COT, SOCIALIST DEPUTY IN THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ADDRESSED A WRITTEN QUESTION TO JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASKING HOW THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED RESPONDING TO GENERAL HAIG'S COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF NATO. FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES' RESPONSE (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

"IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION POSED BY THE HONORABLE PARLIAMENTARIAN THE MINISTER POINTS OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT GENERAL ALEXANDER HAIG, IN HIS CAPACITY OF SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ALLIED FORCES IN EUROPE, IS AT THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY COMMAND OF NATO, FROM WHICH FRANCE WITHDREW IN 1966. BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT CONCERNING THE REMARKS PUT FORTH BY GENERAL HAIG (THE PUBLISHED CLARIFICATION DIFFERS NOTABLY FROM THE FIRST ACCOUNTS GIVEN BY THE PRESS), IT IS NOT THE PLACE OF A SOLDIER IN A RESPONSIBLE POSITION TO GIVE OPINIONS ON QUESTIONS OF A POLITICAL NATURE BEARING ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE GOVERNMENT REJECTS ANY INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

"IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE CHOICE MADE BY THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE CONCERNING THEIR LEADERS AND THEIR ALLIANCES LIES WITHIN THEIR OWN SOVEREIGNTY.

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"THIS BEING THE CASE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ITS OWN POINT OF VIEW ON THIS SUBJECT DURING THE COURSE OF A DEBATE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

2. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE SAUVAGNARGUES' RESPONSE INDICATES A DESIRE ON THE PART OF GOF TO DEFLATE THE AFFAIR BY POSTPONING DISCUSSION OF IT UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 2. THIS DELAY WOULD PRESUM-  
ABLY GIVE THE ISSUE TIME TO DIE DOWN IN BOTH PUBLIC  
OPINION AND THE PRESS. WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSI-  
BILITY, HOWEVER, THAT VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES WILL KEEP  
THE ISSUE ALIVE.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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